

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for providing an alternate symbol associated with a base symbol comprising:
- receiving input requesting a first list of one or more alternate symbols associated with a first base symbol; and
- displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate symbol, comprises:
- displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to a user-defined criteria.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate symbol, comprises:
- displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to a criteria of the alternate symbol that was last selected for the base symbol is displayed first.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to last
5 according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each alternate
6 symbol;

7 responsive to receiving input indicating one of the alternate symbols has been
8 selected, increasing a frequency of selection indicator for the alternate symbol that has
9 been selected; and

10 storing the frequency of selection indicator in a memory.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to last
5 according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each alternate
6 symbol, the frequency of selection being based on pre-determined statistics.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the
2 first list associated with the first base symbol comprises displaying a pop-up menu of one
3 or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the
2 first list associated with the first base symbol comprises replacing the base symbol with
3 one of the alternate symbols in the first list on a display.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols
2 includes a short symbol sequence.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols
2 includes an accented symbol version of the base symbol.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols
2 includes a symbol of the same type as the base symbol.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols
2 includes a symbol having an associational relationship with the base symbol.

3 12. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
4 receiving input requesting a second list of one or more alternate symbols
5 associated with a second base symbol; and
6 displaying one or more alternate symbols in the second list associated with the
7 second base symbol.

1 13. A computing device for providing an alternate symbol associated with a base
2 symbol comprising:
3 a display;
4 a memory;
5 a processor coupled to the display and memory;
6 a user input device for indicating a symbol; and
7 software stored in the memory for providing an alternate symbol associated with a
8 base symbol.

1 14. The device of claim 13 wherein the computing device is a hand-held computing
2 device.

1 15. The device of claim 13 wherein the user input device for indicating a symbol is a
2 hardware key.

1 16. The device of claim 13 wherein the software comprises instructions for execution
2 by the processor for performing the following:

receiving input requesting a first list of one or more alternate symbols associated with a first base symbol; and

displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol.

17. The device of claim 16 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate symbol, comprises:

displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to a user-defined criteria.

18. The device of claim 16 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate symbol, comprises:

displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to a criteria of the alternate symbol that was last selected for the base symbol is displayed first.

19. The device of claim 16 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate symbol, comprises:

displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to last according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each alternate symbol;

responsive to receiving input indicating one of the alternate symbols has been selected, increasing a frequency of selection indicator for the alternate symbol that has been selected; and

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10 storing the frequency of selection indicator in a memory.

1 20. The device of claim 16 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to last
5 according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each alternate
6 symbol, the frequency of selection being based on pre-determined statistics.

1 21. The device of claim 16 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the
2 first list associated with the first base symbol comprises displaying a pop-up menu of one
3 or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol.

1 22. The device of claim 16 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the
2 first list associated with the first base symbol comprises replacing the base symbol with
3 one of the alternate symbols in the first list in the display .

1 23. The device of claim 16 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols
2 includes a short symbol sequence as one of the one or more alternate symbols.

1 24. The device of claim 16 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols
2 includes an accented symbol version of the base symbol as one of the one or more
3 alternate symbols.

1 25. The device of claim 16 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols
2 includes a symbol of the same type as the base symbol.

1 26. The device of claim 16 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols
2 includes a symbol having an associational relationship with the base symbol.

1 27. The device of claim 16 wherein the software further comprises instructions for
2 execution by the processor for performing the following:

3 receiving input requesting a second list of one or more alternate symbols
4 associated with a second base symbol; and

5 displaying one or more alternate symbols in the second list associated with the
6 second base symbol.

1 28. A computer usable medium comprising instructions for execution by a processor
2 for performing the following:

3 receiving input requesting a first list of one or more alternate symbols associated
4 with a first base symbol; and

5 displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first
6 base symbol.

1 29. The medium of claim 28 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to a user-
5 defined criteria.

1 30. The medium of claim 28 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to a criteria
5 of the alternate symbol that was last selected for the base symbol is displayed first.

1 31. The medium of claim 28 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to last
5 according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each alternate
6 symbol;

7 responsive to receiving input indicating one of the alternate symbol has been
8 selected, increasing a frequency of selection indicator for the alternate symbol that has
9 been selected; and

10 storing the frequency of selection indicator in a memory.

1 32. The medium of claim 28 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to last
5 according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each alternate
6 symbol, the frequency of selection being based on pre-determined statistics.

1 33. The medium of claim 28 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the
2 first list associated with the first base symbol comprises displaying a pop-up menu of one
3 or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol.

1 34. The medium of claim 28 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the
2 first list associated with the first base symbol comprises replacing the base symbol with
3 one of the alternate symbols in the first list on a display.

1 35. A computing device for providing an alternate symbol associated with a base
2 symbol comprising:

3 means for receiving input requesting a first list of one or more alternate symbols
4 associated with a first base symbol; and

5 means for displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with
6 the first base symbol.

1 36. The device of claim 35 wherein means for displaying one or more alternate
2 symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more
3 than one alternate symbol, comprises:

4 means for displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to
5 a user-defined criteria.

1 37. The device of claim 35 wherein means for displaying one or more alternate
2 symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more
3 than one alternate symbol, comprises:

4 means for displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to
5 a criteria of the alternate symbol that was last selected for the base symbol is displayed
6 first.

1 38. The device of claim 35 wherein means for displaying one or more alternate
2 symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more
3 than one alternate symbol, comprises:

4 means for displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to
5 last according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each
6 alternate symbol;

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means for increasing a frequency of selection indicator for the alternate symbol that has been selected responsive to receiving input indicating one of the alternate symbols has been selected; and

means for storing the frequency of selection indicator in a memory.

39. The device of claim 35 wherein means for displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate symbol, comprises:

means for displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to last according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each alternate symbol, the frequency of selection being based on pre-determined statistics.

40. The device of claim 35 wherein means for displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol comprises means for displaying a pop-up menu of one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol.

41. The device of claim 35 wherein means for displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol comprises means for replacing the base symbol with one of the alternate symbols in the first list on a display.